

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

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SUBJECT: MEETINGS OF NATIONAL CONSERVATIVE DIRECTORATE AND
CONSERVATIVE PARLIAMENTARIANS

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: BOGOTA A-56

1. THE NATIONAL CONSERVATIVE DIRECTORATE MET ON MAY 7 TO APPROVE THE REGULATIONS FOR THE CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR NOV, 1973. LUCIO PABON NUNEZ AND HUMBERTO GONZALEZ NARVAEZ HAD BEEN CHARGED BY THE DIRECTORATE WITH THE TASK OF DRAWING UP A REVISED VERSION OF THE DRAFT RULES AFTER HERNAN JARAMILLO OCAMPO, HIS " PROGRESSIVE" PARTISANS AND A NUMBER OF SO- CALLED NEUTRALS HAD OBJECTED TO THE PREVIOUS SET OF REGULATIONS AS BEING BIASED IN FAVOR OF ALVARO GOMEZ HURTADO. AFTER A PROLONGED DISCUSSION THE DIRECTORATE APPROVED THE REVISED REGULATIONS AND CONVOKED A MEETING OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR MAY 9 TO CONSIDER THE RUGULATIONS AND DISCUSS AND INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DIRECTORATE MEMBERS.

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2. JARAMILLO HAD PREVIOUSLY CHARGED THAT THE DIRECTORATE WAS COMPOSED OF A MAJORITY OF GOMEZ SUPPORTERS AND HAD CALLED FOR A CHANGE IN THE MEMBERSHIP TO GUARANTEE ITS NEUTRALITY IN THE PRE- ELECTORAL PERIOD. RAFAEL AZUERO MANCHOLA, PRES OF THE DIRECTORATE,

SUBSEQUENTLY PROPOSED THAT THE DIRECTORATE MEMBERSHIP BE INCREASED BY TWO MEMBERS: ONE MEMBER WOULD REPRESENT THE BETANCURISTA ELEMENT OF THE PARTY, AND THE OTHER WOULD REPRESENT ANAPISTAS WHO HAD RETURNED TO THE PARTY. JARAMILLO PROTESTED THAT AZUERO'S PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP WOULD NOT GUARANTEE THE NEUTRALITY OF THE DIRECTORATE AS A WHOLE.

3. THE CONSERVATIVE PARLIAMENTARIANS MET ON MAY 9 IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF

TENSION. THE SUPPORTERS OF GOMEZ CONTROLLED SLIGHTLY MORE THAN HALF OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GROUP WHILE THE PARTISANS OF JARAMILLO CONTROLLED ABOUT ONE- FOURTH OF THE CONGRESSMEN; A SO- CALLED NEUTRAL GROUP MADE UP OF INDIVIDUALS HOLDING VARIOUS VIEWPOINTS COMPOSED THE REMAINDER. AS WAS EXPECTED, THE SUPPORTERS OF JARAMILLO AND THE NEUTRALS RAISED OBJECTIONS ABOUT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE REVISED SET OF REGULATIONS, AND STATED THAT THEY SHOULD BE MODIFIED. THE SUPPORTERS OF GOMEZ DID NOT PRESS TO HAVE THE REGULATIONS APPROVED FINALLY AT THE MEETING, BUT RATHER AGREED TO A PROCEDURE THAT WOULD PERMIT MODIFICATION OF SOME ARTICLES OF THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS.

4. THE FORMULA ADOPTED BY THE MEETING WAS TO HAVE THE REGULATIONS CONSIDERED AND APPROVED IN TWO SEPARATE SESSIONS. THE SESSION OF MAY 9 APPROVED THE REGULATIONS AS THE FIRST STEP IN THE PROCESS, AND NAMED A COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE OBJECTIONS RAISED CONCERNING VARIOUS ARTICLES. THE COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THE OBJECTIONS AND REPORT BACK TO A MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON MAY 24. WHEN THE REGULATIONS WILL RECEIVE THEIR FINAL APPROVAL. THE QUESTION OF THE INCREASE IN THE DIRECTORATE'S MEMBERSHIP WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED BY THE MAY 24 MEETING.

5. THE GOMEZ SYMPATHIZERS HANDLED THE MEETING WITH SKILL. THEY DID NOT ATTEMPT TO STEAMROLLER APPROVAL OF THE REGULATIONS AND THEREBY GIVE THE NEUTRALS AND JARAMILLO SUPPORTERS A BASIS FOR CREATING A PARTY DIVISION. INSTEAD, THEY ALLOWED THE FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE THAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ACCEPT VARIOUS MODIFICATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROPOSED DURING THE MEETING. GOMEZ AND HIS FOLLOWERS ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT SUCH MODIFICATIONS BECAUSE THEY ARE CERTAIN

OF THEIR POSSITION OF STRENGTH IN THE COUNTRY IN GENERAL AND
IN THE NOVEMBER CONVENTION IN PARTICULAR.
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